

Serial No.: 10/609,471
Docket No.: 28951.3123/C1

REMARKS

Claims 11-20, as amended, remain herein.

1. The Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer, thereby mooting the rejection of claims 11-13, 15, and 17-20 under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting.

2. The Office Action requires applicants to file a certified translation of PCT/JP00/09366 to claim priority thereof. However, the present application is a continuing application of U.S. application serial no. 10/220,055, which is the U.S. national stage of PCT/JP00/09366. The U.S. '055 application was filed with an English translation of the PCT international application. See item 6 in the Transmittal Letter under which that application was filed in the USPTO. Applicants are not required to file a certified translation of PCT/JP00/09366 to claim right of priority, and hereby request that the USPTO acknowledge receipt of the translation already filed and acknowledge applicants' claim for priority.

3. Applicants have amended the Abstract and Specification, mooting the objections thereto. Applicants have also reviewed the entire specification and corrected grammar throughout.

4. Applicants have amended claims 11-20, mooting the objections thereto.

5. Applicants have amended claims 14 and 16, mooting the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

6. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Maciel et al U.S. Patent 6,112,248.

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Maciel discloses a method and system for dynamically balancing network traffic using an address resolution protocol to improve network performance. Maciel's Figures 1, 5, 11 and 20 illustrate a block diagram of the network system disclosed by Maciel, which discloses a plurality of processing devices (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b) connected to three networks 1, 2, and 5. However, each of the processing devices is connected directly to one of the three networks, but are never shown to be linked together. Therefore, Maciel does not disclose a plurality of networks in a home bus system of electric household appliances as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Maciel does not disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for a §102(b) rejection thereof. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in Maciel that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

7. Claims 12, 13, 15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Balassanian Published U.S. Patent Application 2005/0021857.

Balassanian discloses a method and system for routing media over a network. The block diagrams of Balassanian's Figure 1a and 1b disclose a computer, telephone, television, and thermostat individually connected to a local area network. In this configuration, the computer, telephone, television, and thermostat are end points in the network. The computer, telephone, television, and thermostat do not function as a link to another network or another appliance. Therefore, Balassanian does not disclose a home bus system of electric household appliances as claimed by applicants.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, Balassanian does not disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for a §102(b) rejection thereof. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in Balassanian which would have suggested applicants' claimed invention. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claims 12, 13, 15, and 17-20 is respectfully requested.

8. Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Balassanian and Teraoka U.S. Patent 6,292,836.

Claims 14 and 16, which depend from claims 13 and 15 respectively, are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to those claims. Balassanian does not disclose a home bus system composed by electric household appliances as claimed by the applicants. Teraoka does not supply what is lacking in Balassanian. Teraoka discloses a communication method and apparatus capable of generating a packet of information. This information includes an identifier of a transmitting end point, the identifier of a receiving end point, and data representing an address. The only block diagram of a network is provided in Figure 1, which shows a wide area network connected to a local network through a router 100. Therefore, Teraoka does not disclose a home bus system composed by electric household appliances as claimed by the applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in either of Balassanian or Teraoka that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Balassanian or Teraoka that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or

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suggest applicants' claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection of claims 14 and 16 and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

This application is now fully in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order Number 28951.3123C1). If further changes could put this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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